Central Governemnt has been supplementing the development efforts of the State Government through concessional Central Assistance for various Special Area Programmes aiming at focused development of identified backward areas and also various poverty alleviation and other schemes.

During the Tenth Plan, Programmes like Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) were initiated with the objective of reducing imbalances in the development of backward areas. The RSVY programme focuses on livelihood support, road connectivity, services for health and education, etc. The programme also addresses problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and bridging of critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. Some identified backward districts of Orissa are covered under the programme.

In 2005-06 the Backward Regions Grant Fund was established and the RSVY programme has now been subsumed under the programme. The new programme would protect the interest of the already identified backward areas/districts of the State.

Package for SSIs

3306. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has asked the Central Government for a special financial package for Small Scale Units in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to consider such a package for backward poverty-stricken States such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa to develop this sector to improve the economy of these regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir, Punjab Govt. has not asked the Central Govt. for a special financial package for Small Scale units in the State.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) State Governments of Bihar, Jharkhand Chhattisgarh and Orissa have also not asked for a similar package.

Pruning of development programmes

3307. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that effective weeding out/pruning of the on-going development programmes before the Eleventh Plan Period would set the clock back in terms of economic and social justice to the poor;

(b) whether Government would seek a gross budgetary support of more than 30 per cent of the previous fiscal; and

(c) whether Government would attempt to strike a balance between the projected budgetary demand and its resource generation capacity while framing the next budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir. Weeding/ pruning of ongoing development programmes is a part of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise that is carried out before the Plan in roder to ensure that Schemes and programmes are consistent with the objective of the Plan. It will not set the clock back in term of economic and social justice to the poor.

(b) No estimates for budgetary support are available for the year 2006-007.

(c) Government always attempts to strike a balance between budgetary demand and resource generation capacity while framing the budget.

Poverty in rural areas

3308. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of poverty in rural areas is 27.09 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty on the basis of the quinquennial rounds of large sample surveys on households consumer expenditure. The latest results as available from such large sample surveys is from NSS (55th Round) which was conducts during 1999-2000. On the basis of the data of that survey,